EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

I.   **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37

CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no

later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Mr. Patrick R. Roche (Reg. No. 29,580) on 07/21/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the
application:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for

processing by a data processing system, said data comprising:

       a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions

performed by an application program on a document comprising document information

during its entire lifetime, comprising a file structure including:

       an object conveying document information,

       processing information, and

       metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein all of

which are stored on the meta-document and retrievable from the meta-document;

       wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each

time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the

data processing system and any results of the processing during the entire life of the

meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time

the meta-document is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document; [[and]]

       wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time

the meta- document is processed by the application program being executed by the data

processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored

on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed and being retrievable

from the meta-document;

       wherein the meta-document is transmitted to a source and parsed at the source for

extracting stored processing information and metadata;

wherein processing information is stored pertaining to transmitting and parsing at the source and associated metadata stored on the meta-document;

wherein the meta-document further comprises a first instruction, embedded on the object, responsive to processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing is performed by the first instruction; and

wherein the meta-document further comprises a second instruction, embedded on the object, for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata, and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

2.   (Original) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein processing information comprises information pertaining to transformation of the document information.

3.   (Original) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the processing information comprises a user comment to the document information.

4.   (Original) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the processing information comprises information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document.

5.   (Previously Presented) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the application
program is embedded on the meta-document.

6.   (Currently Amended) In a data processing system, a computer-implemented
method of managing a meta-document comprising:

        storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to
actions performed by an application program on a document comprising document
information on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the
meta-document comprises a file structure including: an object conveying document
information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and
metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information, wherein all of which are
stored on the meta-document and retrievable from the meta-document;

        wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each
time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the
data processing system and any results of the processing during the entire life of the
meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time
the meta-document is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document; and

        wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time
the meta- document is processed by the application program being executed by the data
processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored

on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed and being retrievable

from the meta-document;

transmitting the meta-document to a source;

parsing the meta-document, at the source, for extracting stored processing

information and metadata; and

storing processing information pertaining to transmitting and parsing at the source

and associated metadata stored on the meta-document,

wherein the meta-document further comprises a first instruction, embedded on the

object, responsive to processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing

processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the

parsing step is performed by the first instruction, and

wherein the meta-document further comprises a second instruction, embedded on

the object, for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-

document, and further comprising the step of:

parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and

associated metadata; and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the source comprises a tool, responsive

to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information

and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by

the tool.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the source further comprises a second

tool for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-

document, and further comprising the step of:

        parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and

associated metadata; and

        distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

11.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system for managing document

information comprising:

        a memory storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information

pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document comprising

document information on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document,

wherein the meta-document comprises a file structure including: an object conveying

document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-

document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information, wherein

all of which are stored on the meta-document and retrievable from the meta-document;

wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system and any results of the processing during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document;

a processor for executing an application program for processing the meta-document; and

a plurality of sources, each source located at a different location,

wherein each time the meta-document is received by a source, processing information and its associated metadata is parsed and extracted from the meta-document at the source; and

processing information pertaining to transmitting the meta-document to the source and parsing at the source and associated metadata stored on the meta-document,

wherein the meta-document further comprises a first instruction, embedded on the object, responsive to processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the first instruction, and

wherein the meta-document further comprises a second instruction, embedded on the object, for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of:

parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein processing information comprises information pertaining to transformation of the document information.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processing information comprises a user comment to the document information.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processing information comprises information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein [[a]] the source further comprises a tool, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document.

II.   **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:**

Claims 1-8, 10-14, and 16 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited
in independent Claims 1, 6, and 11.

The features as recited in independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 "a meta-document for tracking
and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on
a document comprising document information during its entire lifetime, wherein the
processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-
document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing
system and any results of the processing during the entire life of the meta-document, the
processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document
is processed and being retrievable from the meta-document, wherein the meta-document
further comprises a first instruction, embedded on the object, responsive to processing of
the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated
metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the first
instruction, and wherein the meta-document further comprises a second instruction,

embedded on the object, for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored

on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of: parsing the meta-document for

extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and distributing

the extracted selected processing information to the source," when taken in the context of

the Claims as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

Dependent Claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than

the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments

on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

III.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)

272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am –

30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like

assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the

automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-

272-1000.

/MaiKhanh Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176

                                        /Laurie Ries/
                                        Primary Examiner
                                        Technology Center 2100
                                        24 July 2009